(a) whether the Government has considered the relative advantages of a bridge at Chalakkal chira referred to above and the proposed one at Pallimanna;

(b) is the Government aware of the considerable havoc caused by annual floods even now to about 200 acres of wet lands lying above the proposed road ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Detailed investigation and the preparation of an estimate for a combined bridge and chira at Chalakkal have been ordered. The construction of a foot-bridge at Pallimanna has also been ordered to be included in the 1108 budget. The question of relative advantages will arise only when one is preferred to the other. When both are proposed to be taken up, the question does not arise.

(b) No.

Scarcity of water—Edakulathur Village.

472. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezuthassan.—With reference to answer to question No. 203 of the budjet session of 1106, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government has made any inquiry into the existence of scarcity of water in the village of Edakulathur in the hot months of the year ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to the enquiry what is the result of the enquiry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—The enquiry showed that there was some water scarcity in the place.

Government Quarters for Departmental Heads.

473. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the departmental heads have been given Government quarters for their residence ;

(b) if given, whether they are given rent free ;

(c) if some only are given, why the preference ;

(d) whether in the case of persons given such quarters they own houses of their own in the same locality which are rented out ;

(e) on what grounds are such quarters given ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes, the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, the Conservator of Forests and the Excise Commissioner.

(b) Rent free only to the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

(c) There is no preference. The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has been given rent free quarters for not less

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than 36 years and that is continuing in the case of the present incumbent also. The other two instances are of recent origin and rent was charged for them.

(d) The Excise Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests do not own houses in their respective head-quarters. As regards the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer the Member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 409.

(e) As regards the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, please see answer to sub-division (c). The Excise Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests found it difficult to secure suitable accommodation for them in the respective localities.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the rent paid by the two officers in the answer, the Conservator of Forests and the Excise Commissioner?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Conservator of Forests pays Rs. 10 and the Excise Commissioner pays Rs. 12—8—0.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—When compared to that figure what would be the renting capacity of the Government building that is occupied by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not possible to make a comparison. Both the officers are living in their Offices where Office is also held. In the case of the C. M. and S. O. he occupies a whole building.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Am I to understand that even for using the office building these two Departmental heads are charged rents?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are there other instances of subordinate officers using Government buildings for their residence?

Mr V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are isolated cases?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is any rent collected from them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—When they occupy office buildings some rent used to be collected.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it as a matter of rule collected? Are there exceptions?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Each case is considered on its merits.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can I take it that there is exception to the rule? Are there instances where it is not collected?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are certain instances where rent is not collected.

Kopen's lane.

474. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether lands were purchased by private negotiations for the opening of Kopen's lane by the Trichur Municipality;

(b) if so, how much land was so purchased and what is the price per cent;

(c) whether Diwan's sanction was obtained for this purchase and if so, when;

(d) has the matter come again to the notice of the present Council; if so, what action has been taken by the present Council in the matter;

(e) what are the reports of the Councillors Messrs. C. A. Kunjunni Raja, Ex-Chairman Kalyanarama Ayyar and Tahsildar A. R. Mahadeva Ayyar ;

(f) what is the rate for land acquisition awarded by the Diwan Peishkar in the Trichur Town for the various acquisitions effected by him during the last six years ;

(g) has the Government taken any action in the matter; if so, what;

(h) has the Chairman reported that Diwan's sanction was not obtained; if so, what is his report ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) 7 and 1/5 cents for Rs. 1,350. As the lands contained some improvements and as the price paid was for the lands with the improvements thereon, the price per cent cannot be fixed.

(c) Yes; on 17th October 1931.

(d) Yes; the Council did everything necessary to dispose of the matter.

(e) Mr. Kunjunni Raja's report contained a brief history of the whole matter with special reference to the direct purchase before obtaining the Diwan's sanction, the prices paid, the difference between the area originally proposed to be acquired, that specified in the sale deed and that actually taken possession of. The report also contained suggestions for calling for certain papers from the Tahsildar and the remarks of the Ex-Chairman Mr. Kalyanarama Ayyar and Tahsildar Mr. Mahadeva Ayyar on the observations made in the report. The reports of Messrs. Kalyanarama Ayyar and Mahadeva Ayyar contained arguments in support of the action taken by them in this matter.

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